

opc Bulletin

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE OVERSEAS PRESS CLUB OF AMERICA, NEW YORK, NY • November 2008

Filkins Discusses His New Book, *The Forever War*

EVENT PREVIEW: NOVEMBER 6

by Sonya K. Fry

Two tributes to Dexter Filkins' book *The Forever War* sum up the kind of praise that this book has garnered. From *New Yorker's* George Packer: "*The Forever War* is already a classic – it has the timeless feel of all great war literature. A lot has been written about Iraq and Afghanistan, but no one has seen as much, survived as much, and registered the horror with such sad eloquence as Dexter Filkins."

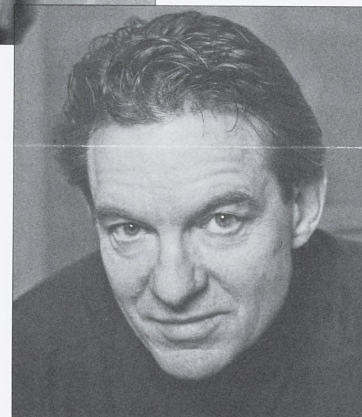
And from the *Atlantic Monthly's* Jeffrey Goldberg: "Dexter Filkins is the preeminent war correspondent of my generation, fearless, compassionate, and brutally honest. In an age of know-it-all pundits and preening bloggers, Filkins is the real thing. He's been everywhere, he's seen everything, and, miraculously, he's lived to tell the tale... It is one of the best books about war that I have ever read. It will stay with me forever."

Filkins was reporting from a Taliban controlled Afghanistan even before the attacks on America in 2001 and he reported on the ground in Baghdad from 2003 to 2006 for *The New York Times* so he has been on the frontline of the "War against Terror" and indeed has seen it all. His book is so named because it feels like this war will go on without end just as the con-

(Continued on Page 2)



Dexter Filkins (top) and *New Yorker* writer Lawrence Wright (right) will headline a joint OPC/World Policy Institute program. Filkins has won two OPC awards and his book *The Forever War* has been called a "classic" by *The New Yorker*. Wright's book, *The Looming Tower*, is considered the definitive work on Al-Qaeda.

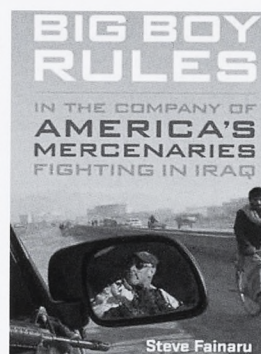


Big Boy Rules Uncovers Shadow Army

EVENT PREVIEW: DECEMBER 1

by Sonya K. Fry

Big Boy Rules [Da Capo Press, 2008] by Steve Fainaru is a shocking expose of the parallel mercenary army on the ground in Iraq. They were billed as security contractors and they operated under the radar until November 16th of 2006 when five Crescent Security Group contractors were kidnapped. Fainaru's



article in *The Washington Post* opened with "U.S. authorities are in possession of five severed fingers, four of which belong to private security contractors who were abducted in Iraq....and remain missing." Sixteen months after that fateful November day, the men were found dead.

In Iraq, there exists a lawless world of hired guns who operate with impunity across the broad landscape of the

(Continued on Page 4)

Inside...

Event Recap: <i>dispatches</i>	3
People	5-8
People: Remembered	8-11
Breakfast Panel	11
Honoring Marshall Loeb	11
New Books	12

Filkins Discusses His Latest Book, *The Forever War*

(Continued From Page 1)

cept of revenge can continue into generations forever. The perspective that Filkins gives the reader is not about politics or military logistics, but he gives a human face to war by intimately sharing a kaleidoscope of stories. He manages to capture and to convey what it is like to be at the scene of a suicide bombing, to cradle a son blinded by an exploding car bomb, to understand the fear and strength of Marines in street-to-street fighting in Fallujah, to witness a public amputation performed by the Taliban in an arena in Kabul. It is a visceral understanding that engulfs the reader.

The Forever War [Alfred A. Knopf, 2008] is Filkins' first-person account of what he saw in years reported with empathy, brutal honesty and rigor. David



Photo by OPC member Ashley Gilbertson who traveled extensively with Dexter Filkins in Iraq.

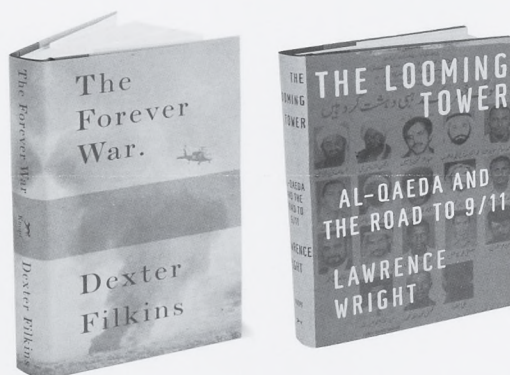
Halberstam hailed his work as "reporting of the highest quality imaginable."

Filkins is no stranger to the OPC having won two awards in subsequent years – the 2004 Hal Boyle newspaper Award for his daily stories on fighting in Fallujah and the 2005 Ed Cunningham magazine Award for "The Fall of the Warrior King" in *The New York Times Magazine*.

The Book Night will also feature *New Yorker* writer Lawrence Wright whose book *The Looming Tower: Al-Qaeda and the Road to 9/11* [Alfred A. Knopf, 2006] is the definitive work on Al-Qaeda

winning him the 2007 Pulitzer Prize for General Non-fiction. Wright was featured in an OPC Book Night to a capacity audience in October 2006 and he won OPC's 2002 Ed Cunningham magazine Award for his story "The Man Behind bin Laden" in *The New Yorker*. Wright will act as interlocutor and engage Filkins in a conversation that is sure to be informative and dynamic.

Co-sponsored by The World Policy Institute, the Book Night and Conversation on Thursday, November 6 will begin with a reception at 6 p.m. and talk at 6:30 p.m. at Club Quarters, 40 West 45 Street. Books of both authors will be available for sale and signing.



OVERSEAS PRESS CLUB OF AMERICA • BOARD OF GOVERNORS

PRESIDENT

Allan Dodds Frank
Correspondent
Bloomberg News

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

Arlene Getz
Senior Editor
Newsweek
World Wide Special Editions

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT

Marcus Mabry
International Business
Editor
The New York Times

THIRD VICE PRESIDENT

Michael Serrill
Senior Editor
Bloomberg Markets

TREASURER

Jacqueline Albert-Simon
U.S. Bureau Chief
Politique Internationale

SECRETARY

Jane Ciabattari
Author/Journalist

ACTIVE BOARD

Ron Allen
Correspondent
NBC News

David A. Andelman
Editor
World Policy Journal

Ingrid Ciprian-Matthews
Foreign Editor
CBS News

Roger Cohen
International Writer at Large
The New York Times

George de Lama
Freelance Editor

Chrystia Freeland
U.S. Managing Editor
Financial Times

Klara Glowczewska
Editor in Chief
Condé Nast Traveler

Frederick Kempe
President & CEO
The Atlantic Council

Jim Laurie
Director, Broadcast
Journalism
University of Hong Kong

Kevin McDermott
Managing Partner
Collective Intelligence

Cait Murphy
Writer/Editor

Maggie Murphy
Assistant Managing Editor
People

Calvin Sims
Program Officer,
News Media
The Ford Foundation

ACTIVE ALTERNATES

Chuck Lustig
Director of Foreign News
ABC News

Nikhil Deogun
International Editor
The Wall Street Journal

Tim Ferguson
Editor
Forbes Asia

ASSOCIATE BOARD MEMBERS

Bill Collins
Director, Public &
Business Affairs
Ford Motor Company

Kathleen Hunt
United Nations
Representative
Care International

Minky Worden
Media Director
Human Rights Watch

ASSOCIATE ALTERNATE

David Fondiller
Director of Media Relations
The Boston Consulting
Group

PAST PRESIDENTS

EX-OFFICIO

John Corporon
Alexis Gelber
William J. Holstein
Marshall Loeb
Larry Martz
Barrett McGurn
Roy Rowan
Leonard Saffir
Larry Smith
Richard B. Stolley

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Sonya K. Fry

EDITOR
Aimee Rinehart

OPC Bulletin

ISSN-0738-7202 Copyright
© 2002
Overseas Press Club
of America

40 West 45 Street, New York, NY 10036 USA • Phone: (212) 626-9220 • Fax: (212) 626-9210 • Website: opcofamerica.org

A Sold-Out Launch of the New Quarterly Journal *dispatches*

EVENT RECAP: SEPTEMBER 22

by Charles Hack

More than 120 people registered to attend the sold out reception and panel discussion at the Overseas Press Club celebrating the U.S. launch of quarterly *dispatches* with its second edition, "beyond Iraq," a magazine that puts much needed context back in to foreign correspondence.

To discuss the myth busting "magazine within a book" at the event held on October 22 at Club Quarters on West 45 Street, veteran journalists including co-founders author and former AP reporter and OPC member Mort Rosenblum, photojournalist and co-founder of VII photo agency Gary Knight were joined by contributing writers, OPC member Rod Nordland, chief foreign correspondent for *Newsweek* based in London, and legendary *New York Times* war correspondent John Kifner.

The fledgling magazine, which is just beginning to build its circulation, was born out of a need to add context to international news coverage which collectively creates a warped view of world events. Most media outlets no longer dedicate the resources or have enough reporters on staff to dig beyond the surface, the journal's co-founders said.

Overcoming distortions in the American public perception of world affairs is particularly poignant at a time during Campaign 2008 all but ignores crucial developments overseas that will inevitably affect foreign policy, such as India's growing interest in space exploration, and Russia's march toward becoming an energy superpower, Rosenblum pointed out.

"We believe that modern Americans and a whole lot more of the other 95 percent of the people on the planet care deeply," Rosenblum said. "Our goal is to provide up-close reporting, and words and pictures against a background of human realities in a historical continuum."

Knight and Rosenblum promise to provide photographers and writers, who know their story inside and out, the space to provide credible and authoritative in-depth coverage with-



dispatches panelists from left, John Kifner, Mort Rosenblum, Rod Nordland and Gary Knight.

out editorial interference, or the restrictions imposed by the need to maximize circulation or increase advertising revenue.

Particularly important for Knight, was the chance for seasoned photographers to have the forum they need to chronicle stories in pictures and words rather than being an adjunct to the writer.

"I don't think that it is the role of the photographer to illustrate a writer's work and take pictures of the people they are interviewing," he said.

dispatches, which has the size and weight of paper back rather than a glossy periodical that a reader might discard at a doctor's office, was designed for a long shelf life.

"I wanted to make something that treated the content with the respect that it deserves and focus the audience's attention on the historic value and depth of the work we are producing," Knight said.

It also disposes of eye-catching art on the cover, which Knight said came out of a decision to use images together in the context of a larger story.

"For me, a photograph on the cover is too dominant and it's too strong and it's too overwhelming," Gary said.

Nordland whose story, "reality in eye-rack it only gets worse," appears in

the magazine pointed out how lack of perspective over the often touted troop surge in Iraq, can misinform the public over the affects of foreign policy.

While a lot of progress has been made in Iraq, the role of the surge in quelling the violence is vastly overstated, he argues. Contrary to popular belief the Sunni "Awakening Movement" grew across the country before the surge as a "strategic social decision" by Sunni Muslims against Al Qaeda, Nordland said.

"I think there is a strong argument to be made that the Awakening Movement would have happened even if there wouldn't have been a surge of troops," he said.

On the Shiite side, the Mehdi Army, which is attributed with displacing entire communities of Sunnis through assassinations, kidnappings and torture -- but also displaced people through the control of power, sewage and other municipal services -- laid down its arms when the movement's leader, cleric Shiite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr realized that the "Shia majority had turned against them."

"They had to join the political process or perish," Nordland said. "And those facts are routinely overlooked."

(Continued on Page 4)



Cartoonist Jeff Danziger and Fortuna Calvo-Roth of Coral Communications enjoy talking at the reception.



OPC President Allan Dodds Frank speaks with photojournalist Ashley Gilbertson at the reception.

Charles Hack

Charles Hack

(Dispatches Event Continued From Page 3)

The art in this edition of *dispatches* is devoted to the work of one photographer, Yuri Kozyrev, one of the few who have covered the war since the invasion in 2002. Although many of his pictures have appeared on the pages of *Time* magazine, it is the first time that photos taken during six monthly stints every year, have been published together, Knight said.

Knight had the challenge of selecting 90 images out of 3,000 that the OPC award winner and *Time* magazine contract photographer submitted. With Kozyrev unable to make the event, Knight explained how the photo essay was organized to reflect three stages of the Iraqi war.

Starting with the first few months of the war, in the early months of the occupation after the invasion, journalists had reasonable freedom to move around independently and photograph the war. These images are followed by a series of photographs while almost all coverage was done by Internet or embedded with the troops, because kidnappings and bombings and even beheadings had made it unthinkable to leave the military bases in anything other than heavily armed patrols. The third section is shown in the last stage when security improved but at the cost of civil freedoms. It became safer for journalists to move around more freely and to photograph the aftermath of the war including broken lives, ruined buildings, veiled women, and huge blast walls.

"We are seeing much better reporting coming out of the war, but at a time when nobody is very interested," Rod said.

Other articles in the second edition are written by Keith Richburg of *The Washington Post*, Jamie Tarabay of NPR and *Le Monde* special correspondent Rémy Ourdan.

The first issue "In America," premiered in May in Europe, featured essays by Paul Theroux, Samantha Power, John Kifner, Kashmiri reporter Muzamil Jaleel with photographs by Antonin Kratochvil.

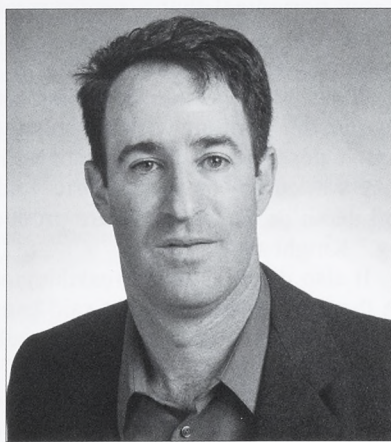
Reporter Uncovers Shadow Army in *Big Boy Rules* Book

(Continued From Page 1)

war. Lacking a sufficient fighting force, the U.S. government rented itself a private army. They gave them weapons and turned them loose without rules and very little guidance. The title *Big Boy Rules* comes from the mercs' own unwritten code. They protect the diplomats, the shipments of Starbucks and unbelievably they act as military escorts.

Fainaru traveled with these security men on their missions, interviewed them extensively and got to know them – where they came from, what motivated them to go to Iraq and how they worked under the daily dangers.

Fainaru's access to these contractors makes this a one-of-a-kind insider story. The name Blackwater is familiar, but no one has



Pulitzer Prize and OPC Award winner in 2008, Steve Fainaru.

done the story on just who makes up this shadow army. Fainaru describes several dramatic cases in which contractors open fire on civilians. As well, he investigates the story of the policymakers who hire these warriors.

At the last OPC Awards Dinner in April Fainaru won the Hal Boyle Award for best newspaper reporting from abroad for this very story "The Private Armies of Iraq" in *The Washington Post*.

He also won the 2008 Pulitzer Prize for International Reporting and he has been a foreign correspondent for *The Washington Post* since 2004.

The Book Night on Monday, December 1 will begin with a Reception at 6 p.m. and the Talk at 6:30 p.m. Books will be available for sale and signing.



PEOPLE...with Al Kaff

GORDON CURRIE/BILL SHINN

BAGHDAD: Muaid Lami,

head of Iraq's journalists union, escaped an assassination attempt in September when a bomb exploded outside the office of the union, the Iraqi Journalists Syndicate. Lami was wounded in his arms and chest. The blast wounded five other persons.

BEIJING: OPC member **Bob Dowling** returned to teaching at Tsinghua University as a visiting professor this autumn. A former OPC board member, Bob spent about 30 years at *BusinessWeek*, retiring as assistant managing editor of the magazine and managing editor of its international editions.



When rules that allowed greater freedom to foreign correspondents during the Beijing Olympic Games were due to expire in October, the government announced that some of the rules would become standard practice. Foreign journalists now can continue to conduct interviews without applying to authorities for permission.

Jonathan Watts of *The Guardian* and president of the Foreign Correspondents' Club of China said, "If properly implemented, we believe this will be a step forward in the opening of China's media environment." But it was not clear if correspondents will be allowed to travel freely around the country without the supervision of a foreign ministry official. Watts himself was detained by police before the Olympics for photographing and interviewing Tibetan rights activists. The relaxed regulations do not apply to Chinese journalists, who are controlled and censored by the government.

The Club issued a statement, "We urge China to take further steps including the enactment of legislation protecting news sources, the opening of restricted areas such as Tibet, and the abolition of rules obliging hotels to report to police when a foreign journalist checks in."

BUDAPEST: **Marton Dunai**, who won the 2003 OPC Foundation's Roy Rowan Scholarship, moved to Budapest in September after six years in California. He now is a traveling correspondent in the Balkans and Central Europe for a Hungarian daily. He also is working for the Center for Investigative Reporting in Sarajevo and starting his own blog news site to chronicle his travels.

CIUDAD GUAYANA, Venezuela: **Eliécer Calzadilla**, a columnist for the daily *Correo del Caroní*, was shot by two gunmen September 27 as he was getting into his car in a parking lot. After being treated in a hospital for a head wound, Calzadilla, a government critic, wrote in his column the next day that he did not believe the incident was a robbery.

COLOMBO: **Mohamed Rashmi**, a correspondent for the privately-owned Sirasa TV station, was covering an opposition political event in Anuradhapura, central Sri Lanka, October 6 when a bomb exploded killing him and at least 26 others and injuring more than 80 people. Blamed on separatist Tamil Tiger rebels, the suicide bomber's target was former General Janaka Perera, who was among the dead. The attack occurred during inauguration of new premises for the leading opposition United National Party. In a statement, Reporters Without Borders said, "Scores of journalists have been killed by these suicide bombers — these merchants of death — in Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iraq, and now in Sri Lanka."

DAMACUS: Two American journalists who work in Jordan were arrested in Syria in October for crossing into Syria "illegally," Syria said, "with the help of smuggler." But they were released to the U.S. Embassy a few hours later after being questioned by Syrian authorities. They were **Holli Chmela**, 27, and **Taylor Lack**, 23, who were working for *The Jordan Times* in Amman. Chmela was studying Arabic

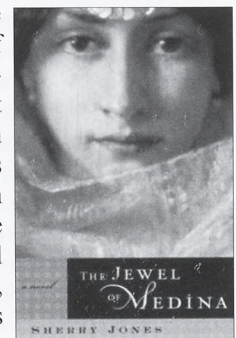
while working as an intern at *The Jordan Times*. She previously was a news assistant in the Washington bureau of *The New York Times*. Lack is a reporter at the Amman newspaper.

HANOI: **Nguyen Viet Chien**, 56, a reporter for *Thanh Nien* newspaper, was sentenced in October to two years in jail for his reports on a major corruption case. Another reporter, **Nguyen Van Hai** from *Tuoi Tre* newspaper, pleaded guilty in the same case and was given two years of re-education without detention. The case relates to a corruption scandal in Vietnam's Ministry of Transport. The two reporters were arrested in May for "abusing their professional power and position," a charge later changed to "abusing freedom and democratic rights." Chien said he was innocent, insisting he published only information provided by official sources. "With my journalist conscience, I can say I never have any other purpose in mind when writing my reports but exposing wrongdoing and fighting corruption."



Nguyen Van Hai

LONDON: Arsonists set off a fire in the house of publisher **Martin Rynja** in September after he announced that he would publish *The Jewel of Medina*, a novel about the early life of A'isha, who married the Prophet Muhammad when she was six years old and has been called the favorite among his several wives. In August, Ballantine Books cancelled the novel's publication in the United States amid fears it would offend and inflame



(Continued on Page 6)

(Continued From Page 5)

Muslim extremists. U.S. rights then were purchased by Beaufort Books, an independent publisher which released the book in America in October. The fire was started when a small firebomb apparently was pushed through the house's mail slot. Three suspects were arrested and charged with conspiracy to destroy property and endanger life. No one was injured.

Rynja was not deterred. He planned to publish the book in October in London under his imprint, Gibson Square, but delayed publication when the author cancelled her trip to Frankfurt to promote the novel. The book was written by Spokane journalist **Sherry Jones**, 46, who described her novel "as an epic love story and a story about women's empowerment" and was neither overly sexual nor offensive. Jones contributes to the Women's E-News Web site and is a correspondent for the Washington news agency Bureau of National Affairs.

◆

Aravind Adiga, former correspondent in India for *Time* magazine, won this year's 40th Man Booker prize for his debut novel, *The White Tiger* [New York: Free Press]. The £50,000 (about U.S. \$86,000) prize is Britain's most generous literary award and is given annually for a novel written by an author from Britain, Ireland or the Commonwealth. *The White Tiger* deals with India's class struggle told through the story of a village boy who becomes a rich man's chauffeur. Adiga, 33, is the second youngest writer to win the award.

MERCED, California: Mike (Buck) Tharp, a former correspondent in Tokyo for several publications, was promoted to executive editor of the *Merced Sun-Star* in October. Tharp, 63, who had been city editor of the daily since last year, formerly was a correspondent and bureau chief in Tokyo for *U.S. News & World Report*, *The Wall Street Journal* and the *Far Eastern Economic Review*, and a *New York Times* Tokyo correspondent. He was president of the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan 1989 to 1990.

◆

Veteran broadcast executive **Andrew Lack** became chief executive officer of

IWMF Honors Lederer at Annual Awards Ceremony

NEW YORK: The International Women's Media Foundation honored OPC member **Edith Lederer** with its Lifetime Achievement Award, presented in October at the Foundation's annual luncheon in the Waldorf-Astoria. The Foundation said, "In her more than four decades with the Associated Press, she has reported from every continent except Antarctica, covering political upheaval, famine and war. From Vietnam to the Middle East, she has broken ground for women journalists." Edie now is AP's chief correspondent at the UN.

Lederer, 65, was injured this June while accompanying the U.N. Security Council on a nine-day trip in Africa that focused on conflicts in Darfur, Chad, Somalia and eastern Congo. The trip completed, Lederer boarded a Brussels Airlines Airbus 330 for New York on June 11. While the plane accelerated down a runway, she said, "Suddenly, we all heard a loud popping noise. The pilot slammed on the brakes. The pilot told passengers he thought a tire had burst." Passengers were told to evacuate down the emergency slide.

Lederer landed on her left ankle and foot, sustaining two fractures in the foot, one in the ankle and one on her fibula plus extensive ligament damage. She underwent surgery in New York's Hospital for Special Surgery June 20. "During my 42-year career with the Associated Press, I've dodged bullets, bombs and grenades, jumped in ditches and had a pistol held to my head. I always emerged unscathed," Lederer said. "So it was ironic to suffer my first injury, not covering war or disaster, but en route home from a trip to Africa with the U.N. Security Council."

The Foundation's Courage in Journalism

Awards went to **Farida Nekzad** of Afghanistan, who the Foundation said, "faces constant death threats and narrowly escaped a kidnapping attempt because her reporting has angered her country's warlords;" **Sevgul Uludag** of Cyprus, who "has devoted herself to uncovering the fates of thousands of people who disappeared during Greek-Turkish clashes in the 1960s and 1970s. Her efforts have gained her the hatred of nationalist groups, violent attacks and death threats;" and **Aye Aye Win** of Myanmar, who "works under constant scrutiny and threat from her country's government, yet she has opened doors to help foreign journalists in Myanmar. She often puts herself at risk, daring to report on people and events that other journalists shy away from and that her government would prefer to keep hidden." Win was unable to attend for fear of not being able to return home.



Edie Lederer



Farida Nekzad



Sevgul Uludag, left and AP reporter Aye Aye Win

Bloomberg's multimedia group in October, responsible for the company's expanding television, interactive and radio operations. OPC member **Norman Pearlstine**, who joined Bloomberg as chief content officer in June after a career as Time Inc.'s editor-in-chief and managing editor of *The Wall Street Journal* said Lack "will be amazed by the quality of people he inherits. He will meet an immensely talented team that will

respond to his leadership." Lack joined Bloomberg from Sony BMG Music Entertainment after serving as president of NBC and NBC News and executive producer at CBS News. Lack said he decided "to return to news - my first love" after Bloomberg executives offered him his new post.

The Sun has set. **Seth Lipsky**, a former editor at *The Wall Street Journal* editions published in Asia, Europe and the United States, and founder of *The New York Sun*, became the victim of a declining capital market. On September 30 after a search for new financial backers while the stock market collapsed, *The Sun* published its last issue after six years.



Seth Lipsky

"Among other problems that we faced, was the fact that this month, not to mention this week, has been one of the worst in a century in which to try to be raising capital, and in the end we were out not only of money but time," Lipsky, the paper's president and editor, told *The New York Times*. Lipsky started the five-day-a-week paper in 2002. According to an article in *The Nation* last year, *The Sun's* paid circulation then was 13,211 while it gave away more than 85,000 copies daily and offered free subscriptions for a year in certain New York Zip codes. Lipsky said *The Sun* would pay its 110 staffers through November and continue their health insurance through September. In a statement, New York Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg said, "*The Sun* shone brightly, though too briefly [and its writers were] smart, thoughtful, provocative." After working as managing editor at *The Asian Wall Street Journal* in Hong Kong, associate editor of the editorial page in New York and editorial page editor of *The Wall Street Journal Europe* in Brussels, Lipsky became editor of *The Forward*, a Jewish-American paper. He was a U.S. Army combat correspondent for *Stars & Stripes* during the Vietnam War.

"Crisis Guide: Darfur," a documentary produced by the Council on Foreign Relations.org, won an Emmy in September. Containing footage from seven photojournalists, the documentary examines the tragedy in Sudan's Darfur region and depicts the human, political, military and historical realities in the region. **Michael Moran**, OPC member and executive editor of CFR.org, said, "We're honored to have received this award. It is a powerful endorsement of

the resources the Council on Foreign Relations offers its online audience."



"I always had dreams of dying at the desk." That's what **Steve Dunleavy**, 70, told **Tim Arango** of *The New York Times* during a three-hour interview in September. But Dunleavy, a columnist for **Rupert Murdoch's** *New York Post*, retired that month, forced to quit because back problems prevent him from moving around easily. Steve who worked for Murdoch for 41 years, wrote in his last *Post* column, "This is not goodbye. I promise you I'll be around to continue doing what I do best, being a pain in the rear end." About 400 friends and colleagues gathered in the Bourbon Street Bar and Grille on October 1st to toast him. Dunleavy started working for the Australian tycoon as a New York-based correspondent for Murdoch's Australian and British newspapers and later with Murdoch's supermarket tabloid *The Star* before joining the *Post*. His reporting career took him to Bogota, Baghdad, Lima, London, Kabul, Tel Aviv and other points.

PARIS: **Robert Ménard**, one of the founders of Reporters Without Borders, announced his resignation as secretary-general of the organization in September. Elected to replace him is **Jean-François Julliard**, 35, who joined the organization in 1998 and has served as head of its Africa desk and since 2004 head of research. Ménard and two other journalists founded Reporters Without Borders in France in 1985 to defend freedom of the press around the world, and he has served as its secretary-general since 1990. Saying he will continue to participate in the organization's activities, Ménard, 55, said, "I cannot imagine a life that does not involve a commitment to serving the values of democracy, freedoms and human rights, which in my view gives meaning to our lives." His book *Freedoms and Other Unnecessary Complications* was published in October.

RANGOON: **U Win Tin**, Burmese journalist, poet and democracy advocate, was released from prison September 23 after 19 years in detention on various charges including anti-government propaganda. Shortly after his release, Win

Tin said, "I am going to continue practicing politics because I am a political man. I am going to continue supporting [democracy leader] Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and the National League for Democracy. I will soon be 80, but I am not going to stop." Reporters Without Borders said he was mistreated several times in prison, once in 1996 after authorities discovered he had provided the UN with information about prison conditions. Arrested in 1989, Win Tin had been editor of the daily *Hanthaawaddy* and vice president of the Burma Writers Association. The nation's longest-serving political prisoner, Win Tin was released along with 9,001 other prisoners in one of the military government's periodic amnesties. Eight journalists remain in prison in Burma.



Win Tin returns home.

SOFIA: **Ognian Stefanov**, editor of the investigative news Web site Frognews, was severely beaten when he left a restaurant around 11 p.m. on September 22 by four men who asked if he was Ognian Stefanov. When the journalist confirmed his identity, the attackers beat him with hammers. Stefanov, 54, suffered broken arms and legs, a brain concussion and severe blood loss. The attack was the second against journalists in Bulgaria this year. On April 7, two gunmen shot and killed **Georgi Stoev**, author of several books on Bulgaria's criminal underworld. The murder remains unsolved.

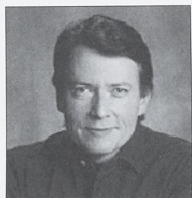
STORRS, Connecticut: OPC member **Don Swinton** recently became program director for leadership gifts at the University of Connecticut. In an e-mail to OPC Executive Director **Sonya K. Fry**, Don wrote, "With the news

(Continued on Page 8)

(Continued From Page 7)

industry wrenched by change, I searched for jobs in philanthropy and sustainable energy – something I could still consider a noble mission. Now, instead of working to bring information and understanding to people, I'm working at a public university, raising money to make higher education more available to kids who can't afford it." Don is the son of another OPC member, **Helen Swinton**, and the late AP executive **Stan Swinton**.

TORONTO: **Arthur Kent** settled his lawsuit against Universal Studios in which he charged that the makers of the film "Charlie Wilson's War" used, without his permission, footage from a 1986 news program he made about the Soviet Union's war in Afghanistan. Terms of the settlement were confidential. The 2007 film starred Tom Hanks and Julia Roberts. Kent said, "I brought these actions only to uphold the copyright protection of my work, my voice and my archive, and to make clear that I do not endorse the account of historical events conveyed by the movie." Kent, a Canadian, is the NBC News correspondent who became known as the Scud Stud while reporting on Iraq's missile attacks on Saudi Arabia during the Persian Gulf War in 1991.



Arthur Kent

VIENNA: **Brankica Stankovic**, an editor at TV B92 in Belgrade, is the winner of the 2008 Award for Better Understanding in South East Europe. The award is given by the South East Europe Media Organization, a network of editors, media executives and journalists from South East Europe. In a statement, the organization said, "Brankica Stankovic introduced new and improved standards of professionalism to Serbian journalism and has addressed in her TV show, *The Insider* (Insajder), important issues that have been either concealed or sidelined by Serbian authorities."

VILLAHERMOSA, Mexico: Three journalists were reported killed in Mexico this autumn. While he was putting up anti-crime posters, **Alejandro Zenón**, host of a morning

call-in show, was fatally shot September 23 by four unidentified men carrying assault rifles. He had announced his intention to put up the posters as part of his campaign against violence in Tabasco state. On October 9, **Miguel Angel Villagomez**, editor of *La Noticia de Michoacán*, was kidnapped, shot and left dead on a pile of refuse. On the same day, **David García Monroy**, a columnist for *El Diario de Chihuahua*, was one of 11 people gunned down in a Chihuahua bar. At least 23 journalists have been killed in Mexico since 2000. **Larry Martz** and **Kevin McDermott**, co-chairs of the OPC Freedom of the Press Committee, wrote in a letter to Mexico's President Felipe Calderon, saying "This carnage must stop."

Meanwhile, police arrested Juan Manuel Martinez, an anti-government protester, in October on charges he shot and killed journalist **Bradley Will**, 36, in October 2006 while he was videotaping a demonstration in the Mexican state of Oaxaca for the New York chapter of the Independent Media Center, a left-leaning group (December 2006 *Bulletin*). Will's mother, Kathy Will, disputed the government's claim of who did the killing. She blamed right-wing paramilitary groups for her son's death.



Helen Thomas and her Olivetti typewriter.

WASHINGTON: **Steve Geimann**, a finance editor with Bloomberg News in Washington, won the September e-mail auction of **Helen Thomas's** Olivetti Lettera 32 portable manual typewriter. Geimann, a collector of journalism memorabilia, bid \$1,200 for the typewriter that Helen, an OPC member, used during 40 years reporting for UPI.

Proceeds from the sale go to the Sigma Delta Chi Foundation for its annual \$4,000 scholarships to college journalism students. Geimann, who worked for UPI from 1983 to 1994, is the Foundation's president.

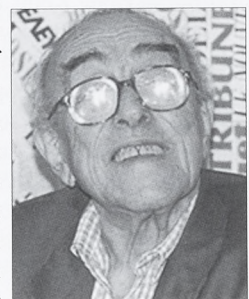
CORRECTION: OPC member **Dan Morris** was first in reporting to this columnist an error in the Sarah Palin item in the October *Bulletin*. Palin was a TV sports reporter in Anchorage in 1988, not 1985, a year after she graduated from the University of Idaho.

WEDDING

Elyse Steinberg directed and was one of the writers and producers of "The Trial of Saddam Hussein," a documentary in the PBS series "America at a Crossroads." The documentary examines the trial of Iraq's former dictator and deals with the nation's sectarian rivalries, violence and the poor planning of the United States. The documentary was premiered on October 12, one day after Elyse, 29, and **Zachary Behr**, also 29, a supervising producer in New York of the MTV show "Made," were married by a rabbi in the summer home of the groom's parents in Hopewell Junction, New York.

PEOPLE REMEMBERED

Vittorio Foa, 98, uncle of former foreign correspondent **Sylvana Foa** and a member of an anti-Fascist group in Italy before World War II, died October 20 at his home in Formia, Italy. "He was my father's brother," Sylvana wrote in an e-mail to the "People" columnist, her former colleague. "We were quiet close and I feel the loss of my last adult relative." The elder Foa was arrested by Fascist authorities in 1935 and sentenced to prison for 15 years. The Allies freed him in 1943. A leader of the left-wing CGIL labor union after the war, he was elected to the Italian Parliament in the 1950s and later became a senator for other left-wing parties. From 1971 to 1986, Sylvana was a UPI correspondent in Asia and Europe and foreign editor in Washington. She later joined the United Nations and was appointed spokeswoman for the secretary-general in 1996. Sylvana now lives in Israel.



Paul L. Montgomery, 72, a former correspondent in Latin America and

Europe, died October 16 of cancer in Lausanne, Switzerland, where he lived. From 1966 to 1969, Montgomery was *The New York Times* bureau chief in Rio de Janeiro. He reported on the misery of an Ecuadorian slum; the search in Bolivia for Che Guevara, Fidel Castro's lieutenant in the Cuban revolution; the 1968 deadly clash between protesters and federal soldiers in Mexico City; and other events. In the United States, Montgomery covered riots in Harlem; the 1965 civil rights march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama; religion; and the New York Nets. After leaving *The Times* in 1982, he reported in Europe for *The Wall Street Journal*.

◆

Raymond Coffey, 79, who reported overseas from three continents during five decades, died in Tucson, Arizona October 4 of complications from Alzheimer's disease. "He represented the best of journalism," commented OPC member **Hugh Mulligan**, who as an AP correspondent, worked beside Coffey in London, Vietnam and Africa. "Ray was not only an accurate and very competent reporter, but he was extremely fair. He was very good at interviewing the troops [in Vietnam]."



Coffey started his career in the 1950s with United Press in Springfield, Illinois. He worked for the *Chicago Daily News* from 1961 to 1978 as a national correspondent, assistant managing editor, Washington bureau chief and foreign correspondent. In 1963, he won a National Headliners Club award for his coverage of the civil rights movement. When the *Daily News* closed in 1978, Coffey joined the *Chicago Tribune* and became its Washington bureau chief. He returned to Chicago in 1986 and wrote a column for the *Chicago Sun-Times* and became a member of the paper's editorial board until retiring in 1999.

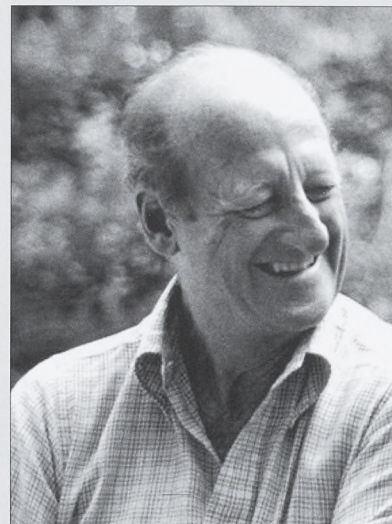
◆

John C. Donahue Jr., 88, who started a 75-year newspaper career when he was 12 years old and went on to report from Europe, Washington and Vermont

Osborn Elliott, New-Style Editor

by Al Kaff

Osborn Elliott, 83, who created a new magazine style at *Newsweek*, died of cancer September 28 in his New York City home. He was the father of **Dorinda (Dinda) Elliott**, OPC first vice president from 2006 to 2008. Dinda, who won a 1997 OPC award, is a former editor at *Newsweek*, *Asiaweek* and *Time*, and now a *Condé Nast Traveler* editor. Oz, as he was known, joined *Newsweek* from *Time* in 1955 and rose to managing editor in 1959 and editor in 1961. Under his leadership, *Newsweek* dropped the *Time* style of backward-running sentences. *Newsweek* started giving bylines to reporters, a first for news magazines, and began producing in-depth polling on national issues. During Elliott's tenure, *Newsweek's* annual circulation rose from about 1.5 million to more than 2.7 million.



Elliott left *Newsweek* in 1976 when New York City was nearly bankrupt to become the city's first deputy mayor for economic development, a \$1-a-year position. He resigned the next year to become dean of Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism, a position he held until 1986. After World War II combat service in the Pacific aboard the heavy cruiser Boston, Elliott joined *The New York Journal of Commerce* as a reporter. He worked there for three years until his first wife, **Deirdre Marie Spencer**, who worked in *Time's* personnel department, urged him to apply for a job at *Time*, which hired him as a contributing editor specializing in business. In a 1977 article in *The New York Times Magazine*, Oz wrote, "I was hooked on journalism. Impressed with its demands for compression and clarity... I had interviews with five presidents, audiences with two popes and the emperor of Japan."

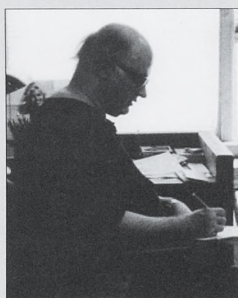
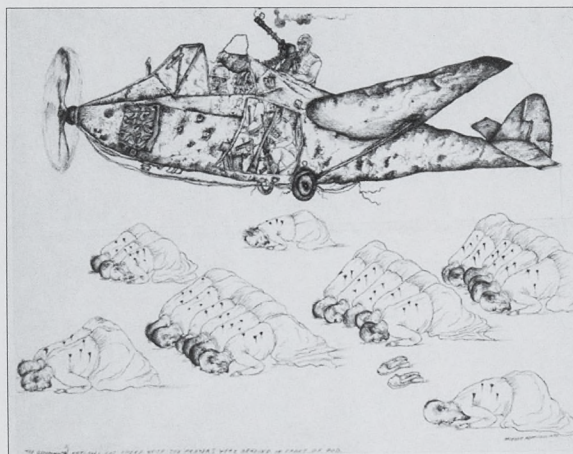
for a number of newspapers, died of cancer at his home in Northfield, Vermont, October 4. At age 12, Donahue and a cousin started *The Falls News* as a summer weekly in Northfield and continued it for five years. After World War II service in the U.S. Coast Guard in the European Atlantic, he returned to Vermont and became sports editor of the old *Burlington Daily News*. He edited magazines in Boston and was based in Paris with United Press, covering events in every major country in Western Europe. Later he was national editor of *The Washington Post* for six years. He also worked for *The New York Times* and other East Coast newspapers. Donahue wrote *A Beginner's Guide to Journalism* and was finishing his memoirs, *Random Memories of a Happy Life*, when he died.

Paul E. Morgan, 91, a longtime OPC member, died in Pompano Beach, Florida September 21 after a brief illness. For more than 20 years, seven as chairman, he served on the board of the World Press Institute, an organization based at Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota, which provides fellowships in the United States to talented foreign journalists. After starting as a magazine writer in 1939 and serving in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II and the Korean War, Morgan moved into public relations in New York, where he help found a public relations firm with **Stephen E. Fitzgerald**. Morgan and Fitzgerald were authors of an early book on public relations, *Communicating Ideas To The Public*. Morgan joined Creole Petroleum Company in 1957, later transferring to Exxon Corporation.

(Continued on Page 10)

Iranian cartoonist **Ardeshir Mohassess**, 70, who fled to New York in 1976 after his cartoons displeased Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlavi, died of a heart attack October 9 in New York. During his exile in the United States, his cartoons were published in *The New York Times*, *The Nation*, *Playboy* and elsewhere. After Ayatollah Khomeini came to power in 1979, Mohassess drew biting criticism of Iran's religious government.

Among his drawings were the shah dangling from a noose over a mob in turbans, a dilapidated government aircraft strafing citizens at prayer, a turbaned figure drawing a picture of his own amputated feet and rows of decapitated corpses laid before seated mullahs.

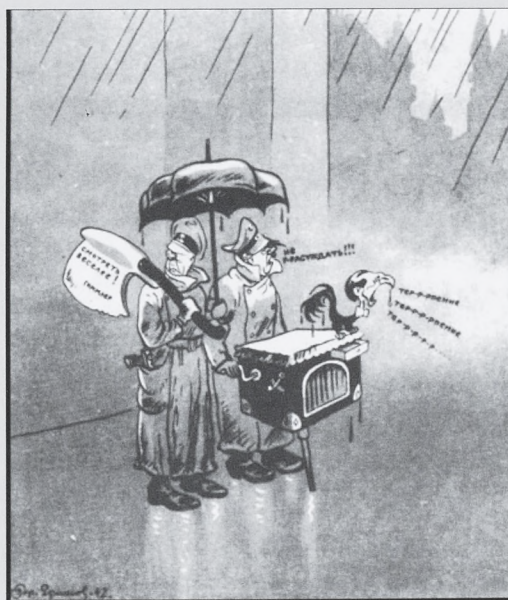


Above, a government plane strafes men at prayer by Ardeshir Mohassess. Left, Mohassess at work

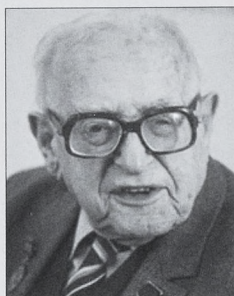
Boris Yefimov, 109, a Russian cartoonist who drew 70,000 drawings over 70 years, died in Moscow October 1. *The New York Times* wrote that he was "despised by Hitler and beloved by Stalin [and] old enough to have seen the last czar pass in a coach; became friends with Trotsky; have Stalin personally edit his cartoons; and vote for Vladimir V. Putin."

Yefimov worked for many prestigious publications, and some of his cartoons became national icons including one showing frozen and wounded World War II German soldiers carrying a coffin labeled "the myth of the invincible German Army." *The Times* wrote, "Hitler vowed to shoot the cartoonist as soon as he captured Moscow."

Boris Yefimov was born in Kiev in 1899. His first cartoon appeared in a Kiev newspaper in 1919 and over the next few years became a regular contributor to *Pravda*, *Isvestia*, *Krokodil* and other leading Soviet publications.



Above, Boris Yefimov's cartoon, *The Fuhrer's Barrel-Organ* (1942). Right, Yefimov in 2002.



His overseas assignments included Venezuela, Norway, Peru, Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic.

In 1973 when she was a *New York Times* correspondent, **Nancy Hicks** went to China to study its medical system. One of her dispatches described the use of acupuncture for surgical operations while patients remained wide awake and felt no pain. Maynard, who was 21 when she joined *The Times* as one of its first black women reporters, and her husband, **Robert C. Maynard**, a former *Washington Post* columnist, bought *The Oakland Tribune* in 1983. They published *The Tribune* until Robert Maynard died in 1993, and with revenues declining she sold the paper. In



1977, the Maynards and seven other journalists founded the Institute for Journalism Education, renamed the Maynard Institute for Journalism Education after Robert's death. The Institute has trained hundreds of minority journalists. Nancy Hicks Maynard, 61, died in Los Angeles of multiple organ failure September 21.

Jerry B. Hannifin, 91, a *Time* magazine writer who specialized on Latin America, died September 18 at his home in Cocoa Beach, Florida. After working for United Press, Hannifin joined *Time* in 1946 and edited the magazine's Spanish-language edition in 1953 and 1954. He spent much of his career in Washington and became *Time's* chief aerospace correspondent. He retired from the magazine in 1982. His honors included the Maria Moors Cabot Prize for distinguished contributions in journalism to Inter-American relations, and he was an OPC member.

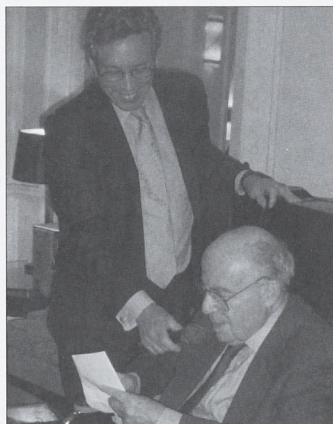
Gwen Morgan Veysey, 93, who went from reporter on a Kansas newspaper to covering major stories in Europe for the *Chicago Tribune*, died September 16 in New Zealand after a brief illness. She joined the *Tribune* in 1946 after her mar-

(People Remembered: Continued From Page 10)

riage to war correspondent **Arthur Veysey**, and they lived in London. She covered Queen Elizabeth's coronation, Adolph Eichmann's trial, Winston Churchill's funeral, death of Pope John XXIII and many other events including a trip across Africa with *Tribune* editor and publisher **Colonel Robert McCormick** aboard the newspaper's converted B-17 bomber. After three years in Paris, she and her husband retired from the *Tribune* in 1975. Born in Chicago, Gwen Morgan's first job was as a reporter at the *Emporia Gazette* in Kansas under legendary editor **William Allen White**. While her husband covered World War II in the South Pacific for the *Tribune*, she worked in the United Press Washington bureau. He died in 1977.

Loeb Honored at Meeting

At a reception following the first board meeting of his presidency, **Allan Dodds Frank** of Bloomberg News honored **Marshall Loeb**, the one-time managing editor of *Fortune*, for his two years of service as president 2006-2008.



Sonya K. Fry

New Books:

(Continued From Page 12)

spa, you'll eat meals made from local foods, and the landlord or landlady will welcome you with open arms. I'll always treasure experiences like that."

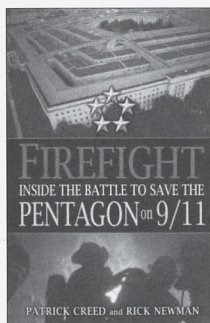
NORTH AMERICA

THE SIZE AND STRUCTURE of the Pentagon presented challenges that firefighters had never before faced. How they overcame these challenges and extinguished a fire that threatened to cripple America's military infrastructure is told in **FIREFIGHT: Inside the Battle to Save the Pentagon on 9-11** [Random House/Presidio Press].

The book describes the minutes, hours and days following the crash of American Airlines flight 77 into the Pentagon's western façade.

The book is an account of the men and women who risked their lives in the Pentagon inferno to rescue friends and co-workers.

The book includes 16 pages of photos. Authors are **Rick Newman**, a writer at *U.S. News & World Report*, and **Patrick Creed**, a U.S. Army reserve officer who has served in Iraq.



Breakfast Panel at the OPC

Friday, November 21
8:30 a.m.

The U.S. Election: What it Means for China and Taiwan

Panelists:

Chong-Pin Lin, professor at the Graduate Institute of International Affairs and Strategic Studies at Tamkang University (Taipei)

Andrew Nathan, Professor of Political Science at Columbia University; he has written extensively on China and is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations

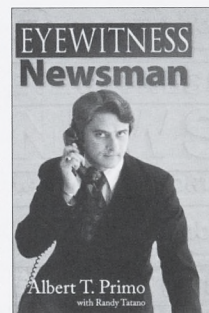
Moderated by OPC former President **William J. Holstein** who recently returned from Taiwan and China.

RSVP online
or call 212-626-9220

TELEVISION NEWS

"I'VE WORKED WITH SOME OF THE BEST writers and reporters over the years, yet none have been able to tell the people's story better than the people themselves. A careful selection of sound bites within the story makes the best television. Reporters will often take the easy way out and get sound bites from officials on the scene rather than hunt down those truly affected and get the real information."

That's what television news pioneer Albert T. Primo recommends in *Eyewitness Newsman* [Old Greenwich, Connecticut: Primonews]. Primo is quoted, "Let's stop writing newspaper-style stories, hoping we have some pictures that might fit. Let's use the unique tools available to us to take our viewers by the hand and transport them to the scenes of stories." Primo credits himself with creating the style of Eyewitness News in the 1960s, making the "telling people's stories as important as the anchors of television newscasts." Primo has worked in television news since the 1950s in Pittsburgh, Philadelphia and New York. He was ABC's vice president for news, executive producer of the Reasoner Report and founded a news advisory service. He currently produces Teen Kid News, syndicated to TV stations and schools.

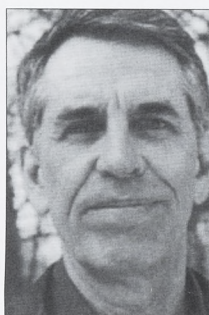
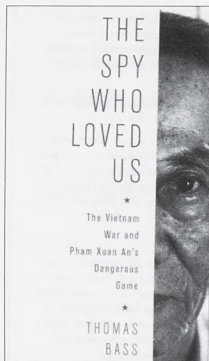


— by Al Kaff

New Books

ASIA

A SECOND BOOK has been published on the feats of **Pham Xuan An**, who spied for North Vietnam during the Vietnam War while serving in Saigon as a correspondent for Reuters and *Time* and becoming a friend to many Western correspondents. From Smithsonian Books/Harper Collins came **Larry Berman's** *Perfect Spy*. Now freelance journalist **Thomas A. Bass**, winner of an OPC citation for his foreign reporting, has written *The Spy Who Loved Us: The Vietnam War and Pham Xuan An's Dangerous Game* [New York: PublicAffairs]. Bass, who

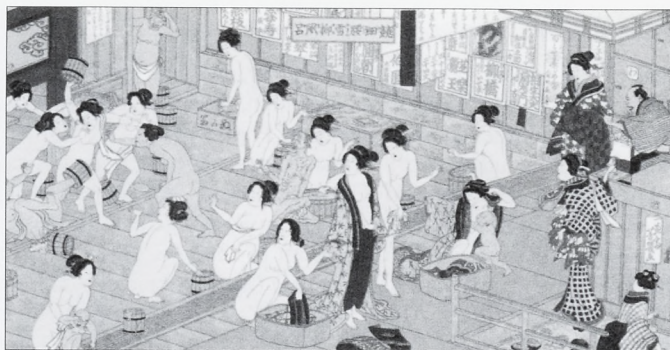


Thomas A. Bass

has contributed to *The New Yorker*, *The New York Times* and other publications, writes of An, "The [Communist] Vietnamese studied their adversary. They cultivated an agent who could think like an American, who could get inside the American mind to learn the country's values and beliefs. The Vietnamese needed someone, as An would say of himself, who had grafted an American brain onto his Asian body... They needed a strategic spy, a poetic spy, a spy who loved Americans and whom the Americans loved in return." Bass is a professor of English and journalism at New York State University in Albany.

"I'M GOING TO KEEP VISITING

hot springs until I die, here in Japan," writes **Robert Neff**, 56, a retired *BusinessWeek* correspondent. Neff first went to Japan with his family when he was 13 and his father was a missionary. Two months after their arrival, the family visited a hot springs resort in Hakone. Neff recalls, "When I entered the changing room, I saw three women standing there stark naked. I was bowled over, and embarrassed too." That was his first introduction to Japan's mixed-bathing *onsens* that he writes about in *Japan's Hidden Hot*



Women's Bath House, a Yukiyo print by Yoshiiku on a postcard.

Springs [Tokyo: Tuttle]. Japanese relax in hot springs not "to leer at naked members of the opposite sex," Neff wrote in the monthly journal of the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan, where he was president 1998 to 1999. "Most want to be able to bathe together with their significant others and fellow couples." Neff explained, "The locals – entire families – would chat about everyday things, farming, whatever, while soaking in the hot water. It was a naked get-together with the neighbors, something unheard of in the U.S. The hot spring was the local community center. I found the ambience to be a wonderful part of Japanese culture."

For those of you who are embarrassed, there are also same-sex bath houses. Neff and his wife, **Fumiko**, live in Japan's Kanagawa prefecture, he wears a *yukata* [informal kimono] at home and says, "If you stay in a *ryokan* [Japanese inn] at some out-of-the-way

(Continued on Page 11)

Coming Up...

Dexter Filkins
The Forever War
With Lawrence Wright
Thursday, November 6

Breakfast Panel
U.S. Election: China and Taiwan
Friday, November 21

Steve Fainaru
Big Boy Rules
Monday, December 1
See inside for details

Overseas Press Club of America
40 West 45 Street
New York, NY 10036 USA